

alternates Chris Brooks, Steven Legendre, Alex Naddour. This men's gymnastics team is considered the best since 1984 when the United States won gold at the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Jake, like all other Americans participating in the Olympics, gives our country a great sense of pride. I join my fellow Nevadans and the rest of the country in wishing good luck to Team USA and Jake as he tries to bring home the gold to the Silver State.

COMMEMORATING THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. The Leadership Alliance, which includes the 5th District's University of Virginia, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has mentored over 2000 undergraduates who have participated in the Summer Research Early Identification Program and over 200 alumni who have obtained their PhD or MD-PhD degrees as Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars.

In the 5th District, the University of Virginia has mentored over 15 participants in the Summer Research Early Identification Program and the Summer Undergraduate Research Program in fields ranging from Education to Biomedical Sciences.

I am pleased today to congratulate and commend the Leadership Alliance and the University of Virginia for 20 years of mentoring a diverse and competitive workforce.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Administration to join in the international effort to reach a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus as a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation. This continued dispute has real regional and global implications. It threatens effective NATO-EU cooperation, affects regional stability, and also remains an obstacle to Turkey, our key partner and ally, gaining full membership to the European Union, which the United States has long supported.

I continue to believe that a just and viable solution to the longstanding Cyprus problem is not only achievable, but also urgent and necessary. The key to the settlement in Cyprus is the renewal of the Partnership between the two equal co-owners and co-founders of the "Republic of Cyprus", as established in 1960: Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. As a

matter of fact, Turkish Cypriot people have long proven their readiness to renew the Partnership State. In 2004 they demonstrated the necessary political will for a comprehensive solution by voting strongly for the UN Settlement Plan in the separate and simultaneous referendum, a proposal that was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greek Cypriot side.

Since assuming the European Union term presidency on July 1, there is no better time for the Greek Cypriot government to take the long-awaited substantial steps towards a comprehensive settlement with the Turkish Cypriots. I hope this new EU role for Cyprus will not hinder the continuation of reunification talks. In fact, I believe that Cyprus' six-month term in the presidency of the EU brings extra responsibilities to show sincere efforts towards peace.

The international community and the United States will have to answer a fundamental question in the days ahead: Are we going to put in place all necessary efforts in order to reach a comprehensive solution in Cyprus, and thus demonstrate the political will to that effect, or are we going to let an achievable settlement slip away once again, all the while perpetuating the illegitimate and unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people? A continued status quo in Cyprus is not beneficial to any party, and the time is now to solve a dispute that has lasted for more than forty years.

In light of recent actions by Syria and others in the Middle East, Turkey has continued to operate as an important U.S. ally in the region, and all parties acknowledge that Turkey's membership to the European Union cannot be achieved without first tackling these issues in Cyprus. Therefore, all sides should return to the table and set a timeline for action, and this Administration should work with all stakeholders to ensure that any agreement respects human rights and ensures the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

While the people of Cyprus must ultimately decide their own fate, there is no better time for the international community to support such reunification efforts. As all eyes remain on Cyprus during its term with the EU presidency, and continued talks would signal to the world that both parties are committed to establishing a peaceful and prosperous future for all Cypriots.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JUSTIN GATLIN AS A MEMBER OF THE 2012 UNITED STATES OLYMPIC TEAM

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Northwest Florida's Justin Gatlin as a member of the 2012 United States Olympic Team. Every 4 years, our nation joins together to root on the athletes that represent us at the Summer Olympic Games and for those of us from Northwest Florida, we will be rooting even harder when Justin competes in the 100 meter sprint to bring the gold back home.

From an early age, Justin displayed an incredible God-given talent for track and field. He grew up in Pensacola, Florida and ran

both sprint and hurdles to help lead Woodham High School to a state championship, before accepting a scholarship to the University of Tennessee. At Tennessee, Justin won six consecutive NCAA titles in two years, before turning pro at age 19.

In 2004, Justin qualified for the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece by winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100 meters and finishing runner up in the 200 meters. In Athens, Justin became the youngest ever to win the gold medal in the 100 meters, while also bringing home a silver medal as part of the U.S. 4x100 meter relay team, and a bronze medal in the 200 meters. He followed up his successful Olympic performance a year later by becoming the first American sprinter to win both the 100 and 200 meter races at the national championships since Kirk Baptiste in 1985. That same year he became only the second sprinter in history to win gold medals in the World Championships in the 100 and 200 meters, and his victory in the 100 meters by .17 seconds was the largest winning margin in World Championship history.

After four years away from the track, Justin returned in 2010 to seek another gold medal. He won his first event in 2010 and finished runner up in the 2011 USA Track and Field Championships. In 2012, Justin has already had a successful season, winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100 meters in a personal best 9.80 seconds, proving that he is ready to help the U.S. team go for gold in London this summer. Justin's victory in the Olympic Trials, 8 years after his first Olympic triumph, is an example of the success that can be achieved by working hard even after you reach the pinnacle of your career.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to rise on behalf of Florida's First Congressional District to recognize Northwest Florida's own Justin Gatlin and wish him the best as he represents our country and competes for another Olympic gold medal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH TASK FORCE ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Children's Health Task Force Act. As children grow and develop, they are especially vulnerable to environmental health hazards such as air pollution, hazardous chemicals, and lead.

The number of children at risk for lead poisoning alone remains unacceptably high. Today there are 442,000 children with elevated blood levels, yet Congress continues to drastically cut funding for lead poisoning prevention programs. There is simply no safe level of lead exposure for children. Research has shown that lead is damaging to the developing brains of young children and can have harmful long-term effects on behavior and IQ. I believe it is reprehensible to allow this kind of damage to happen to children. This quiet tragedy is entirely preventable, and it is our responsibility to protect our children and make lead poisoning a thing of the past.

In 1997, former President Clinton established by Executive Order an inter-agency task